ABSTRACT <u>OF THE DISCLOSURE</u>

A method and a device for converting virtually concatenated data streams into contiguously concatenated data streams, wherein the data is transmitted in containers and N containers are combined to form a multiframe, the virtually concatenated data streams consist of X partial data streams/channels, wherein containers which are allocated in each case to the same point in the multiframe are identified by evaluating a multiframe indicator of the container, the time shift of these identified containers of the partial data streams with respect to each other is measured, and in the event of a shift being present only leading containers are delayed so as to ensure that all containers are aligned with respect to time. Each channel (KA1, KA2, ...) is allocated a pointer interpreter (PI1, PI2), followed by a buffer memory (ES1, ES2) and a pointer generator (PG1, PG2), the pointer generators are synchronized with respect to each other, and each pointer generator is arranged for the purpose of controlling the reading out of the buffer memory associated with its channel, and a channel which is selected as the master channel (KA1) is provided with an overhead inserter (OI1).

Figure 3